

441—175.21(232,235A) Definitions.

“Adequate food, shelter, clothing or other care” means that food, shelter, clothing or other care which, if not provided, would constitute a denial of critical care.

“Allegation” means a statement setting forth a condition or circumstance yet to be proven.

“Assessment” means the process by which the department carries out its legal mandate to ascertain if child abuse has occurred, to record findings, to develop conclusions based upon evidence, to address the safety of the child and family functioning, engage the family in services if needed, enhance family strengths and address needs in a culturally sensitive manner.

“Assessment intake” means the process by which the department receives and records reports of child abuse.

“Caretaker” means a person responsible for the care of a child as defined in Iowa Code section 232.68.

“Case” means a report of child abuse that has been accepted for assessment services.

“Community care,” as provided in rule 441—186.1(234), means child- and family-focused services and supports provided to families referred from the department. Services shall be geared toward keeping the children in the family safe from abuse and neglect; keeping the family intact; preventing the need for further intervention by the department, including removal of the child from the home; and building ongoing linkages to community-based resources that improve the safety, health, stability, and well-being of families served.

“Denial of critical care” is the failure on the part of a person responsible for the care of a child to provide for the adequate food, shelter, clothing or other care necessary for the child’s health and welfare when financially able to do so, or when offered financial or other reasonable means to do so, and shall mean any of the following:

1. Failure to provide adequate food and nutrition to the extent that there is danger of the child suffering injury or death.
2. Failure to provide adequate shelter to the extent that there is danger of the child suffering injury or death.
3. Failure to provide adequate clothing to the extent that there is danger of the child suffering injury or death.
4. Failure to provide adequate health care to the extent that there is danger of the child suffering injury or death. A parent or guardian legitimately practicing religious beliefs who does not provide specified medical treatment for a child for that reason alone shall not be considered abusing the child and shall not be placed on the child abuse registry. However, a court may order that medical service be provided where the child’s health requires it.
5. Failure to provide the mental health care necessary to adequately treat an observable and substantial impairment in the child’s ability to function.
6. Gross failure to meet the emotional needs of the child necessary for normal development.
7. Failure to provide for the proper supervision of the child to the extent that there is danger of the child suffering injury or death, and which a reasonable and prudent person would exercise under similar facts and circumstances.

8. Failure to respond to the infant’s life-threatening conditions (also known as withholding medically indicated treatment) by providing treatment (including appropriate nutrition, hydration and medication) which in the treating physician’s reasonable medical judgment will be most likely to be effective in ameliorating or correcting all conditions, except that the term does not include the failure to provide treatment (other than appropriate nutrition, hydration, or medication) to an infant when, in the treating physician’s reasonable medical judgment any of the following circumstances apply: the infant is chronically and irreversibly comatose; the provision of the treatment would merely prolong dying, not be effective in ameliorating or correcting all of the infant’s life-threatening conditions, or otherwise be futile in terms of the survival of the infant; the provision of the treatment would be virtually futile in terms of the survival of the infant and the treatment itself under the circumstances would be inhumane.

“Department” means the department of human services.

“Facility providing care to a child” means any public or private facility, including an institution, hospital, health care facility, intermediate care facility for mentally retarded, residential care facility for mentally retarded, or skilled nursing facility, group home, mental health facility, residential treatment facility, shelter care facility, detention facility, or child care facility which includes licensed day care centers, all registered family and group day care homes and licensed family foster homes. A public or private school is not a facility providing care to a child, unless it provides overnight care. Public facilities which are operated by the department of human services are assessed by the department of inspections and appeals.

“Illegal drug” means cocaine, heroin, amphetamine, methamphetamine or other illegal drugs, including marijuana, or combinations or derivatives of illegal drugs which were not prescribed by a health practitioner.

“Immediate threat” means conditions which, if no response were made, would be more likely than not to result in sexual abuse, injury or death to a child.

“Infant,” as used in the definition of “Denial of critical care,” numbered paragraph “8,” means an infant less than one year of age or an infant older than one year of age who has been hospitalized continuously since birth, who was born extremely prematurely, or who has a long-term disability.

“Nonaccidental physical injury” means an injury which was the natural and probable result of a caretaker’s actions which the caretaker could have reasonably foreseen, or which a reasonable person could have foreseen in similar circumstances, or which resulted from an act administered for the specific purpose of causing an injury.

“Physical injury” means damage to any bodily tissue to the extent that the tissue must undergo a healing process in order to be restored to a sound and healthy condition or damage to any bodily tissue which results in the death of the person who has sustained the damage.

“Preponderance of evidence” means evidence which is of greater weight or more convincing than the evidence which is offered in opposition to it.

“Proper supervision” means that supervision which a reasonable and prudent person would exercise under similar facts and circumstances, but in no event shall the person place a child in a situation that may endanger the child’s life or health, or cruelly or unduly confine the child. Dangerous operation of a motor vehicle is a failure to provide proper supervision when the person responsible for the care of a child is driving recklessly, or driving while intoxicated with the child in the motor vehicle. The failure to restrain a child in a motor vehicle does not, by itself, constitute a cause to assess a child abuse report.

“Rejected intake” means a report of child abuse that has not been accepted for assessment.

“Reporter” means the person making a verbal or written statement to the department, alleging child abuse.

“Report of child abuse” means a verbal or written statement made to the department by a person who suspects that child abuse has occurred.

“Subject of a report of child abuse” means any of the following:

1. A child named in a report as having been abused, or the child’s attorney or guardian ad litem.
2. A parent or the attorney for the parent of a child named in a child abuse assessment summary as having been abused.
3. A guardian or legal custodian, or that person’s attorney, of a child named in a child abuse assessment summary as having been abused.
4. A person or the attorney for the person named in a child abuse assessment summary as having abused a child.

“Unduly” shall mean improper or unjust, or excessive.